

Form
(Jan 78)Form Approved
OMB No. 42 R 765

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION

APPLICATION — PART 1

(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P L 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY:

Address of property Street 675 Melvin Drive
City Baltimore County _____ State Maryland Zip Code 21201
Name of historic district in which property is located Ridgely's Delight Historic District; National Register of Historic Places, June 6, 1980; Baltimore City Historic District, October 19, 1979

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary) 675 Melvin Drive was built ca. 1875. It is a three story three bay wide brick structure with a slope roof. The brick is laid in common bond. The first floor comprised a steel beam which extends the width of the facade. The original doors were missing and the opening was boarded. The second and third floor comprised three window openings which are rectangular. The lintels above all of the
3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: (use reverse side if necessary)
675 Melvin Drive is integral to the historic and architectural quality of the Ridgely's Delight District. The Ridgely's Delight Historic District is a small wedge-shaped area located southwest of Baltimore's Central Business District. This neighborhood is all that remains of a much larger area that developed from the late 19th c. through the early 20th century. The majority of the buildings in the neighborhood were built in the
Date of construction (if known): c. 1875 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known) mid-20th c. interior

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name Ridgely's Delight Associates, c/o William Struever, Struever Brothers and Eccles
Street 519 North Charles Street
City Baltimore, State Maryland Zip Code 21202
Telephone Number (during day): Area Code (301) 332-1352

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge, correct and that I am owner of the property described above

Signature [Signature] Date 12/15/81

Form prepared by Barbara A. Hoff, Dalsemer, Catzen and Associates, Inc. 14 Light Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (301) 837-3691

For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the districtThe structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60)The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60) and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of said districtSignature [Signature]
State Historic Preservation OfficerDate 1-7-82

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 60.7) and is subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheetSignature _____
Keeper of the National Register

Date _____

IF NEEDED USE THIS SIDE TO COMPLETE ANSWERS TO PART 1

DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE: cont.

windows are segmental arch and a single soldier course. The rear at was built in 1891 by furniture manufacturer, Henry Roesser. The four bay wide structure is laid in common bond and displays large double windows with segmental arched lintels, comprised of three rowlock brick courses and stone sills. The rehabilitation plans for the facade include: constructing the first floor in wood as the original doors would have been, and installing wood one over one double hung windows; installing the same type windows in all of the second and third floor window openings; and chemically cleaning the facade and repointing.

The rear, south elevation is brick with smaller one pane rectangular window openings set within segmental arches, on the first floor. The rehabilitation plans include: chemically cleaning the brick and repointing as necessary; enlarging the ground floor openings and creating new masonry openings for new window on the second and third floors. The windows on this elevation will be aluminum one over one double hung windows.

The interior of the building was badly deteriorated because of exposure to the elements and lack of maintenance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: cont.

1840's and 50's as a result of the establishment of the University of Maryland Hospital in 1812 and the growth of heavy industries including the B & O Railroads yards, the Winans Locomotive and Car Works, and the Hayward, Bartlett and Company, manufacturers of iron for the railroads and buildings. Smaller industries developed within the neighborhood including a box factory, an iron foundry, a paint and oil factory, a furniture manufacturer, and a silver beating manufactory.

The neighborhood developed to house the workers at the adjacent factories and the professionals at the University Medical Facilities. The architecture of the historic district reflects this social and economic mix of people. The residential structures range in style from the late Federal houses which were two or two and a half story rowhouses to the more substantial Italianate structures which were three stories and had heavy cornices and elongated window proportions. The district contains many storefront buildings, several of which were late 19th century additions to early 19th century houses; several mid to late 19th century industrial buildings; and earlier 19th century houses which are set back from the street. The historic district retains its 19th century character because of the low scale of both the residential and commercial buildings and the intimate vistas created by the many streets and alleys which are at angles to each other, therefore closing off expansive views. The residential and commercial buildings exist in harmony because the industrial structures repeat the fenestration patterns and the use of brick as a building material, which are similar to the residential structures.

Ridgely's Delight began to decline around the 1940's, climaxing in the 1960's with a large percentage of abandonment of the housing stock. The highway programs of the 1950's and 60's were partially responsible for this decline. The resurgence of the neighborhood began in the 1970's by private investors, who were followed by the City's

Urban Renewal Program and Homesteading Project for the area. From the outset, the new residents to the neighborhood were concerned about retaining the indigenous population. This priority of the Urban Renewal Program has resulted in an economically and socially mixed community.

One of the projects which helped focus attention on the redevelopment of the neighborhood was the broad based effort to restore the Babe Ruth House, which is now an historic house museum and a Baltimore City Landmark. The 19th century charm of Ridgely's Delight is a striking contrast to the new Inner Harbor Developments a short distance away.

675 Melvin Drive is architecturally compatible with the development of the district and maintains the intimate streetscape of the smaller streets throughout the district. The building was one of the properties owned by Henry Roesser, a Baltimore cabinet and furniture maker. He was president of Henry Roesser and Son, furniture manufacturers, which is located on South Fremont. Roesser's business was typical of the many family owned companies which operated in the Ridgely's Delight area and throughout downtown Baltimore in the mid to latter part of the 19th century.

The rehabilitation plans respect the original late 19th century character of the building and establish a use compatible with the residential rejuvenation of the neighborhood.

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675 MEVIA DR

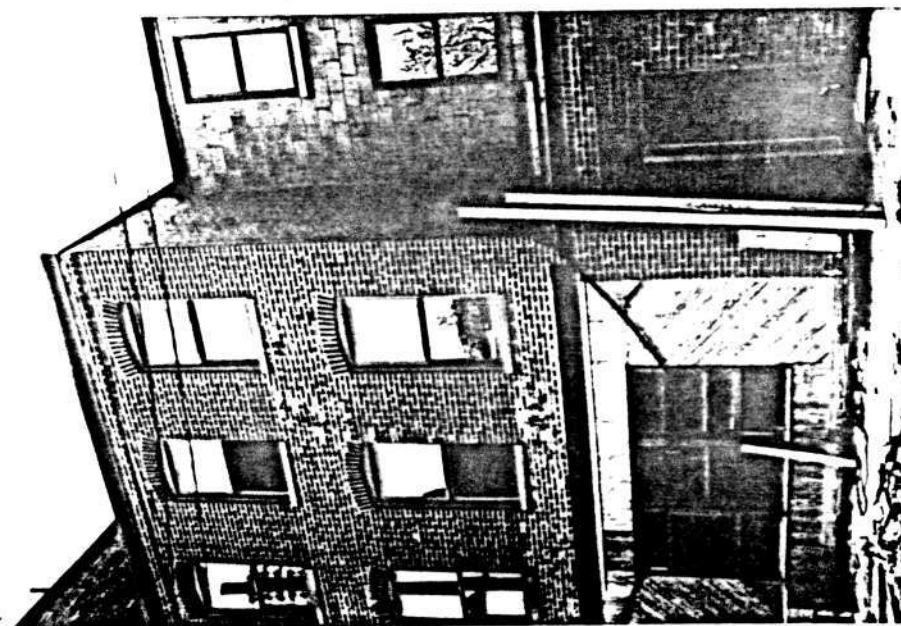
531 S 34TH ST



NORTH ELEVATION

675 MEVIA DR

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NORTH ELEVATION

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Baltimore West Quad.

